

Looking for an Argument?

**An Inquiry Course at
URBAN ACADEMY
LABORATORY HIGH SCHOOL**

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COMPLEX

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

WOULD OUR SOCIETY BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT TELEVISION?

APPENDIX 8B

ESSAYS

Student 1

Would our society be better off without TV? I think that this question is easily answered; our society would be far better off without TV. We should do what the people of Afghanistan are doing—destroying their television sets! Look at what is happening to the children of society who spend hours every day in front of the TV. They are being brainwashed into believing what ever they see on it.

Some people say that even though there are many things wrong with television, it is also useful. Parents can relax with it after coming home from work instead of being bothered by their overactive kids. It also benefits the kids because there are many educational channels for children. For example, there is Sesame Street and Barney.

But television is the reason why there is so much stereotyping in our society. I don't think it's stupid for people to believe the stereotypes they see on television because when a person grows up around only one type of people or has limited experience with other types of people, they have no choice but to believe what they hear or are told about those people, especially when they are children. For example, in the article "TV's Black Characters Aren't For Real" a man named Jonathan Capehart describes how it was when he was young and going to a white school. Because of what they saw on TV, the students there thought all black people were good basketball players. Capehart had to justify why he couldn't play basketball, why he couldn't talk jive, and why he could not do the "handshake." If it wasn't for TV, they would not have asked him those stupid questions and they probably would have treated him like everyone else.

The Taliban was doing a great thing by destroying their people's television sets. This happened on July 9th in Afghanistan when they gave people 15 days to get rid of them. In the article "Afghan Rulers Planning to Smash TV Sets" it says that video set recorders and satellite dishes were also ordered to disappear by the Afghani minister for the prevention of vice and promotion of virtue. I believe we should do the same. I think it would be better for the future children of America not to hear one-sided opinions and to be brainwashed and not know it.

In conclusion, Afghanistan was helping its people by making them get rid of their television sets. Television distorts things, makes things up, ruins society, and makes people believe they have to act in a certain way.

APPENDIX 8B

ESSAYS

Student 2

WOULD OUR SOCIETY BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT TELEVISION?

Would our society truly be better off without television? Are the negative aspects of television really that serious?

There are many positive sides to television. Television is educational and entertaining. It gives us fast information and a clear view of what is happening in the world. It lets you see and experience things, which would be impossible for you to experience through reading a book or listening to the radio. It also gives you something to do on a rainy or a cold day. Television seems to prevent violence in children as stated in the article "Fresh Air, No TV, Fighting Kids."

But as the evidence will show the negative aspects of television surpass the positive aspects. Most television shows are junk. They show false and unreal stereotypes. A very small percentage of television shows are actually educational and a very small part of these shows are actually entertaining. Television is also very biased and shows you only one side of the story; it brainwashes people into believing whatever they see on television. Television also makes kids violent and wild. Television stops kids from going out and exercising or from just staying home and reading a book. Television knows it gives you fast entertainment and that it dumbs down our society, especially our younger generation. There are many more overweight people now than ever before and sitting in front of the TV has something to do with this. There are also many more channels to watch than ever before.

We need to do something about the effects of TV on our society. I believe that all violent and sexual shows should be removed from television. People should still have access to educational television which should be carefully analyzed in order to make sure its programs present the least amount of bias as possible and no false information.

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ESSAYS

Student 3

For many years families would gather around the “Ole Tube” to watch high quality programming. They would watch in wholesome awe as the world entered their little home. Television was a revelation. It modernized how information is received and perceived. High quality programming would only enhance. What happened? Now all we see on TV is violence, sex, and millions of commercials.

High quality programming is no more; all that is left is advertising and a narrow- minded view of the world and the people in it. Something like this is not helpful to our society. It is only harmful and should be eliminated.

Television is not all bad, as some things on television are useful. TV gives us news. In the morning when you wake up it’s easy to turn on the news so you can be informed on what’s happening in the world around you. TV keeps us informed and aware; it’s one of the fast ways of receiving information. Television can also be looked on as a learning tool. Many channels show educational shows helping children as well as adults learn about our world. Television is also a way to keep youngsters off the streets. Would you rather have your child watching Barney or selling drugs? In a lot of ways TV can be a useful tool.

When watching TV one can learn many things and pick up many ideas. But what happens if they are all the wrong ideas? Television can be useful.

Looking for An Argument?
4 Students Essays

Eddie
Name

WOULD OUR SOCIETY BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT TELEVISION?

Please reread the attached assignment carefully

In the space provided below, write a thoughtful response that clearly explains your thinking about the question.

Does the student's essay thoroughly respond to the assignment?

<p>Your Own Essay <i>I introduce the topic, five 4 little arguments that support TV. Conclude with my own plan, and I provide 3 big arguments against TV, with a good amount of citations and evidence. I think I did just fine with what I have.</i></p>	<p>In this space, indicate your best guess: Did this student have an effective plan: Yes _____ No _____</p>
<p>Student 1 <i>Small introduction. 2 "good" arguments and 1 "bad" Argument. This is not very thorough or convincing. 2 good vs. 1 bad. That's a bad way to end this essay.</i></p>	<p>Yes _____ No _____</p>
<p>Student 2 <i>No introduction of Afghani's plan, a good amount of "good" arguments, some bad arguments, but NO evidence at all! Clearly this is not thorough and is not .</i></p>	<p>Yes _____ No _____</p>
<p>Student 2 <i>No Afghani intro, good deal of "good" arguments, the "bad" is not too in depth, with only one example of evidence. Good start, but it is incomplete.</i></p>	<p>Yes _____ No _____</p>